her, and ejaculate between her legs" i.e. "thigh" her, as the fatwah in question indicates.

(Source: http://www.islamweb.net/ver2/Istisharat/ShowFatwa.php?lang=A&Id=23672&Option=FatwaId&x=40&y=13)

IS IT ILLEGAL?

Although child marriage is against the law in many countries, and international treaties forbid the practice, it is estimates that about 51 million girls below age 18 are currently married, often under the cover of darkness and in secret. In Afghanistan alone, it is believed that approximately 57 per cent of girls wed before the legal age of 16.

Various factors drive parents of child brides to marry off their daughters, from the community's pressure to confirm to age-old cultural customs to economic considerations. In poor, developing nations, it is not uncommon for families to settle debts by offering their daughters as payment.

Beside India, where girls are usually wed to boys who are only a couple of years their senior, the husbands may be decades older than their prepubescent betrothed. It is not uncommon for men to kidnap girls and rape them first before trying the knot.

Tahani, age 8, is seen with her husband Majed, age 27.

Most girls who enter early marriages are expected to get pregnant right away, which often leads to tragedy for both the mothers, who are still children themselves, and their babies. Adolescent wives are more likely to have obstructed labor because their bodies have not fully developed yet. Statistics show that pregnancy death for child brides is double that of women in the 20s, according to the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.

Unless steps are taken to reverse the troubling trend, it is estimated that over the next decade, 100 million more girls—or about 25,000 girls a day—will marry before they turn 18.

Muhammad of the Bible?

SURAH 5:68 claims:

> Say, "O People of the Scripture, you are [standing] on nothing until you uphold [the law of] the Torah, the Gospel, and what has been revealed to you from your Lord." And that which has been revealed to you from your Lord will surely increase many of them in transgression and disbelief. So do not grieve over the disbelieving people.

If indeed the Qu'ranic writings and subsequent Hadiths are the continuation of the Holy Bible, then why has this teaching of childhood marriage against Biblical truth?

Jesus said:

MATTHEW 18:6

> But whoso shall offend one of these little ones (children) which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Just to offend a child not ready for marriage is a fate of hellfire. No where is marrying children expressed as acceptable, truly, the majority of marriages described in the Bible were between men and women in their mid-twenties to thirties.

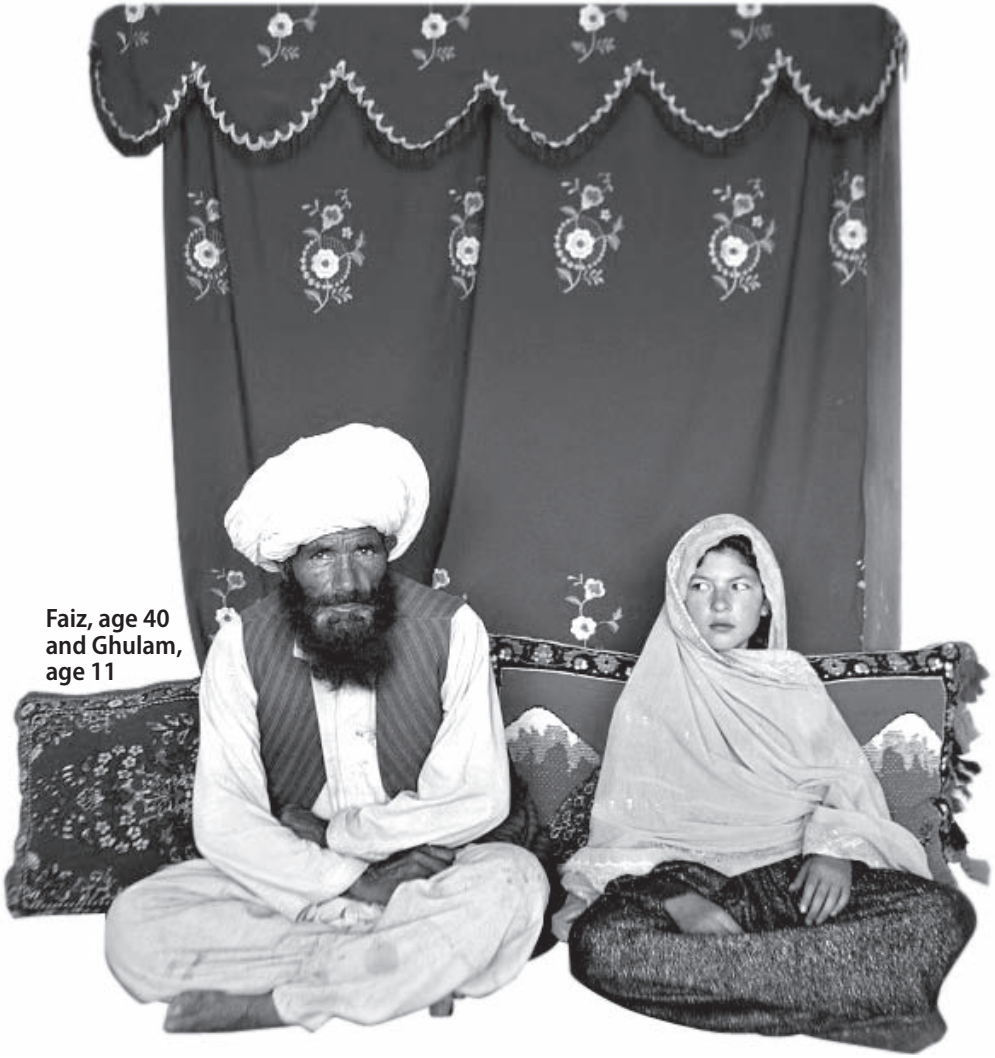
In contradiction, the Qu'ran, and its prophet Muhammad, fall on their own swords.

If you are a Muslim, I hope that you would change your perspective when it comes to the prophet of the Qu'ran - that he was not living by the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but rather the god of his own heart and lust. God bless you with the truth.

Visit: **truthseekertimes.ca** for digital copies of this pamphlet and others. Visit **contendingfortruth.com** , **answeringmuslims.com** & **answering-islam.org** for more info on Islam, how to refute it and how to quit it. Credits to Stephanie Sinclair for taking the photos for *National Geographic* & Snejana Farberov for writing on the subject

MUHAMMAD'S MARRIAGE TO A PREPUBESCENT GIRL

An Examination of Muhammad's Marriage to a Prepubescent Girl and Its Biblical Implications



Faiz, age 40 and Ghulam, age 11

By Sam Shanoun

www.answering-islam.org

Not only Christians, not only Westerners, but many people from various cultures are troubled when they discover that Islam's prophet, Muhammad, married a nine-year-old girl named Aisha. Some go so far as to accuse Muhammad of being a pedophile, using such emotive language as "child molester" to describe Muhammad for marrying a young prepubescent girl.

This has led many a Muslim to either reject the traditions which document Aisha's young age when she married Muhammad, or to come up with some type of moral justification defending Muhammad's marriage to a minor. Our focus here is to examine what the Muslim sources say about Muhammad's marriage to Aisha and also address the common Muslim arguments that are raised either defending the story or rejecting it as simply erroneous.

The Islamic Evidence

We now present the Islamic data showing that Aisha was a girl of nine when Muhammad consummated his marriage to her. All bold, capital and underlined emphasis is ours.

SAHIH AL-BUKHARI (This is the most trusted Islamic book next to the Qu'ran - 'Sahih' means 'correct'.)

Narrated Aisha:
The Prophet engaged me when I was a girl of six (years). We went to Medina and stayed at the home of Bani-al-Harith bin Khazraj. Then I got ill and my hair fell down. Later on my hair grew (again) and my mother, Um Ruman, came to me **while I was playing in a swing with some of my girl friends**. She called me, and I went to her, not knowing what she wanted to do to me. She caught me by the hand and made me stand at the door of the house. I was breathless then, and when my breathing became all right, she took some water and rubbed my face and head with it. Then she took me into the house. There in the house I saw some Ansari women who said, "Best wishes and Allah's Blessing and a good luck." Then she entrusted me to them and they prepared me (for the marriage). Unexpectedly Allah's Apostle came to me in the forenoon and my mother handed me over to him, **and at that time I was a girl of nine years of age**. (*Sahih Al-Bukhari*, Volume 5, Book 58, Number 234)

Narrated Hisham's father:
Khadija died three years before the Prophet departed to Medina. He stayed there for two years or so and then he married 'Aisha when **she was a girl of six years of age, and he consumed that marriage when she was nine years old**. (*Sahih Al-Bukhari*, Volume 5, Book 58, Number 236)

Narrated 'Aisha:
that the Prophet married her when she was six years old and he consummated his marriage when **she was nine years old, and then she remained with him for nine years** (i.e., till his death). (*Sahih Al-Bukhari*, Volume 7, Book 62, Number 64; see also Numbers 65 and 88)

SAHIH MUSLIM

'A'isha (Allah be pleased with her) reported: Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) married me when **I was six years old, and I was admitted to his house at the age of nine**. (*Sahih Muslim*, Book 008, Number 3309; see also 3310)

'A'isha (Allah be pleased with her) reported that Allah's Apostle (may peace be upon him) married her when she was seven years old, **and he was taken to his house as a bride when she was nine, and her dolls were with her**; and when he (the Holy Prophet) died she was eighteen years old. (*Sahih Muslim*, Book 008, Number 3311)

SUNAN ABU DAWUD

Aisha said:
The Apostle of Allah (may peace be upon him) married me when I was seven years old. The narrator Sulaiman said: Or six years. **He had intercourse with me when I was nine years old.** (*Sunan Abu Dawud*, Number 2116)

Narrated Aisha, Ummul Mu'minin:
They took me, made me prepared and decorated me. I was then brought to the Apostle of Allah (peace_be_upon_him), **and he took up cohabitation with me when I was nine**. She halted me at the door, and I burst into laughter. (*Sunan Abu Dawud*, Book 41, Number 4915)

IBN HISHAM

He married 'A'isha in Mecca when **she was a child of seven** and lived with her in Medina when **she was nine or ten.** (*Ibn Ishaq, Sirat Rasulullah (The Life of Muhammad)*, translated by Alfred Guillaume [Oxford University Press, Karachi, tenth impression 1995], p. 792)

AL-TABARI

The Prophet married 'A'ishah in Shawwal in the tenth year after the [beginning of his] prophethood, three years before Emigration. He consummated the marriage in Shawwal, eight months after Emigration. **On the day he consummated the marriage with her she was nine years old**. (*The History of Al-Tabari: Biographies of the Prophet's Companions and Their Successors*, translated by Ella Landau-Tasseron [State University of New York Press, Albany 1998], Volume XXXIX, pp. 171-173; underline emphasis ours)

IBN KATHIR

His statement, "He contracted marriage with '**A'isha when she was six, thereafter consummating marriage with her when she was nine" IS NOT DISPUTED BY ANYONE**, and is well established in the sahih collections of traditions and elsewhere.
(*Ibn Kathir, The Life of the Prophet Muhammad (Al-Sira al-Nabawiyya)*, Volume II, translated by professor Trevor Le Gassick, reviewed by Dr. Muneer Fareed [Garnet Publishing Limited, 8 Southern Court, south Street Reading RG1 4QS, UK; The Center for Muslim Contribution to Civilization, first paper edition, 2000], pp. 93-94)

MARTIN LINGS

During the same year that followed Khadijah's death, the Prophet dreamed that he saw a man who was carrying someone wrapped in a piece of silk. The man said to him: "This is thy wife, so uncover her." The Prophet lifted the silk and there was 'A'ishah. **But 'A'ishah was only six years old, and he had passed his fiftieth year**. (*Lings, Muhammad: His Life Based on the Earliest Sources* [Inner Traditions, International, Ltd.; Rochester Vermont, 1983], pp. 105-106)

Ghada, age 8, with her husband.

SAIF-UR-RAHMAN AL-MUBARAKPURI

3. 'Aishah bint Abu Bakr:
He married her in the eleventh year of Prophethood, a year after his marriage to Sawdah, and two years and five months before Al-Hijra. **She was six years old when he married her.** However, he did not consummate the marriage with her till Shawwal seven months after Al-Hijra, and that was in Madinah. **She was nine then.** She was the only virgin he married, and the most beloved creature to him. As a woman she was the most learnèd woman in jurisprudence. (*Ar-Raheeq Al-Makhtum (THE SEALED NECTAR) Biography of the Noble Prophet*, [Maktaba Dar-us-Salam Publishers & Distributors, First Edition 1995], "The Prophetic Household", p. 485; online source; underline emphasis ours)

AND HERE IS A RELIGIOUS FATWAH THAT MENTIONS MUHAMMAD'S PHYSICAL RELATIONS WITH AISHA:

Praise be to Allah and peace be upon the one after whom there is no [further] prophet.
After the permanent committee for the scientific research and fatwahs (religious decrees) reviewed the question presented to the grand Mufti Abu Abdullah Muhammad Al-Shemary, the question forwarded to the committee by the grand scholar of the committee with reference number 1809 issued on 3/8/1421 (Islamic calendar). The inquirer asked the following:

It has become wide spread these days, and especially during weddings, the habit of mufa'khathat of the children (mufa'khathat literally translated means "placing between the thighs" which means placing the male member between the thighs of a child). What is the opinion of scholars knowing full well that the prophet, the peace and prayer of Allah be upon him, also practiced the "thighing" of Aisha - the mother of believers - may Allah be please with her.
After the committee studied the issue, they gave the following reply:

It has not been the practice of the Muslims throughout the centuries to resort to this unlawful practice that has come to our countries from pornographic movies that the kufar (infidels) and enemies of Islam send. As for the prophet, peace and prayer of Allah be upon him, thighing his fiancée Aisha. She was six years of age and he could not have intercourse with her due to her small age. That is why [the prophet] peace and prayer of Allah be upon him placed HIS [MALE] MEMBER BETWEEN HER THIGHS AND MASSAGED IT SOFTLY, as the apostle of Allah had control of his [male] member not like other believers..
(Source: http://www.sout-al-haqe.com/pal/musical/mofakhaza.ram)

The following link provides independent evidence that the above fatwah does indeed exist:
http://www.islamic-fatwa.net/viewtopic.php?TopicID=8330

In the above link Islamic scholar Dr. Ahmad Al-Hajj Al-Kurdi comments on the fatwah in question. He is responding to a person who is asking whether or not the fatwah actually exists, and whether or not Muhammad committed this action. In response he says that Muhammad most probably did this after he consummated the marriage at 9 rather than when she was 6. His point of contention therefore is concerning when Muhammad did this to the little girl, and not whether or not he did it.

We also read:

FATWAH 23672:

The inquirer asks: "My parents married me to a young girl who hasn't yet reached puberty. How can I enjoy her sexually?"
The imam answers him by saying: "Do not harm her if she cannot take intercourse but you may hug her, kiss